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Basic Imagery Interpretation Report



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA MISSILE TEST CENTER

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MISSILE RANGES--STRATEGIC SSM & SPACE FACILITIES USSR FEBRUARY 1969

DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

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ABSTRACT

This report gives a brief description of the offensive and defensive missile launch facilities and associated areas at the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center. It contains a location map and two tables providing data on the major facilities at the test center. The information in the report is current as of

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The offensive missile launch facilities at the test center are devoted to research and development and troop training associated with SRBM, MRBM, and IRBM systems. There are also facilities for aerodynamic missile testing and space launch activities.

The defensive missile launch facilities at the test center are devoted to research and development and troop training associated with the SA-1, SA-2, and SA-3 SAM systems and with the radar systems used in connection with the SA-1, SA-2, SA-3, and SA-5 SAM systems.

INTRODUCTION

The Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (KY/Vlad MTC) was established shortly after World War II and was the first Soviet missile test center. It is situated on the north bank of the Volga River, in the southwestern USSR, approximately 60 nautical miles (nm) east-southeast of the city of Volgograd and 330 nm northwest of the Caspian Sea. The surrounding terrain is a treeless semidesert with elevations ranging from a few feet below sea level to approximately 500 feet above sea level at a point near Lake Baskunchak. Most of the facilities at the test center are between 50 and 75 feet above sea level. The climate in the area is characterized by hot, dry summers and cold, dry winters.

The test center is served by road, rail, air, and possibly water transportation networks. It is on the primary road between Volgograd and Astrakhan, and it is connected to Volgograd, Astrakhan, and Saratov by single-track rail line. It is served by the Kapustin Yar and the Akhtubinsk/Vladimirovka airfields and there are port facilities on the Volga River at Akhtubinsk.

The test center is divided geographically into two main parts: a defensive missile rangehead in the west and an offensive missile rangehead in the east (Figure 1).

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Offensive Missile Facilities

The surface-to-surface missile launch facilities in the eastern half of the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center consist of eight launch complexes designated A through H with 38 launch positions, including 28 launch pads and 10 silos. There are also facilities for aerodynamic missile testing and space launch activities (Table 1).

Launch Complex A

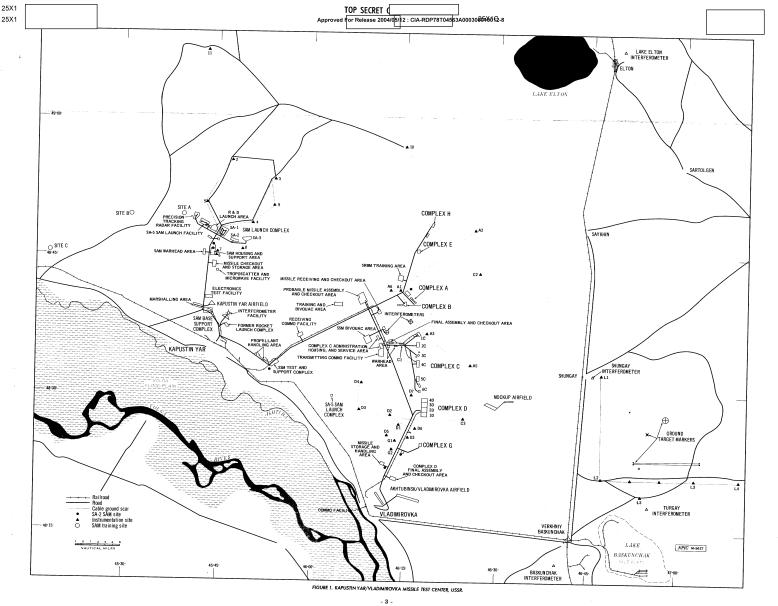
Launch Complex A $\underline{1}/$ may have been the original ballistic missile launch complex at Kapustin Yar. It consists of two launch pads, two abandoned ramp structures, and a support area which contains a missile assembly and checkout building. On recent coverage new construction has been observed underway in the launch pad area. Launch Complex A has been used for SS-4 MRBM troop training, $\underline{2}/$ but recently it has been utilized for SRBM troop training.

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25X1D	An SRBM troop training area, approximately 1 nm north of Launch Complex A, was first observed in It is associated with Launch Complex A and it consists of a support area with barracks and motor pool facilities, field training positions, and bivouac areas.	
	Launch Complex B Launch Complex B, 3/ approximately 1 nm south of Launch Complex A, was first	
25X1D	observed in The complex consists of three adjoining launch areas and a relatively small support area. It was used for naval cruise missile research, development,	25X1D
25X1D	and troop training up to when the complex appeared to become inactive. In late evidence of a probable reactivation of the complex was noted when new construction was observed in the support area.	
25X1D	Launch Complex C is the Soviet Rocket Forces (SRF) facility used for MRBM and IRBM research, development, and troop training and is the complex from which the KY/Vlad MTC space launches originate. It is south of Launch Complex B, in the middle of the north-south line of SSM launch complexes. It consists of six separate launch areas, designated 1C through 6C, and extensive support facilities, including missile and warhead storage and handling facilities, electronics and communications facilities, and administration and housing facilities. 4-10/ Launch Area 1C, 11/ present in with a single launch pad, has been modified extensively and now consists of three rail-served launch pads. The function of the two newer launch pads is undetermined. The original launch pad has recently been utilized	
	for SS-4 missile exercises. Launch Area 2C 12 / was first seen in It has two launch pads and probably was	25X1D
	a prototype launch area for SS-3 deployment in the Soviet Union. The role of the north-	
	ern launch pad, on which a service tower was constructed in is unknown. SS-4 missile exercises have been observed on the southern launch pad.	25X1D
	necting hardstands. It is used for troop training and crew firing of the SS-4 MRBM.	25X1D
	Launch Area 4C, 14 / first observed under construction in has two launch sites, 4C-1 and 4C-2. Launch Site 4C-1 has four silos and was the prototype SS-4 MRBM hard	25X1D
	site. Modification of the silos was started in and the fourth silo is currently being modified. The present role of the site is unknown. Launch Site 4C-2, with three launch silos, was the prototype for the SS-5 IRBM hard site and is still utilized for SS-5 training	25X1D
	Exercises at the present time. Launch Area 5C, 15 / first observed under construction in consists of two launch sites, 5C-1 and 5C-2. The two launch pads of Launch Site 5C-1 were prototype launch pads for the SS-5 missile system and still serve as training pads for this missile system. Site 5C-2 apparently was intended as a training site for the SS-4 missile system but was never completed. A probable launch control facility is now under construction at Site 5C-2. The southernmost launch area of Launch Complex C is Launch Area 6C, 16, 17/ where three launch silos are under construction. It probably represents a prototype and/or training facility for a small, solid-propellant ballistic missile.	25X1D
	Launch Complex D	
25X1D	Launch Complex D, south of Launch Complex C, is an aerodynamic missile facility. It was present in and consists of four launch sites, of which only two, Launch Sites 1D and 3D, are considered active at present. Straight-wing drones have recently been	
25X1D	observed at Site 1D, and a large high-performance aerodynamic vehicle has been seen at Site 3D. The Final Assembly and Checkout Area and the Missile Handling and Storage Area for Launch Complex D, approximately 8 nm south of the complex, was present	
	Launch Complex E	
25X1D	Launch Complex E, 18/ approximately 4 nm north of Launch Complex A, was under construction in and it appeared that two launch pads were to be constructed. How-	
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	ever, only one launch pad was completed. The missile system associated with the completed pad has not been determined.	
	Launch Complex F Launch Complex F is located at approximately 48-37N 044-56E, about 2 nm north of the Receiving Communications Facility. It formerly served as a field training area and consisted of numerous field positions and revetments. No activity or exercises have been	
25X1D	observed at this complex since and the area is considered abandoned.	
	Launch Complex G Launch Complex G, 19 / approximately 4 nm south of Launch Complex D, was first observed in It consists of an abandoned launch area and a housing and support	
25X1D	area. An aerodynamic missile or target drone was observed near the housing and support	
25X1D		
25X1D	Launch Complex H Launch Complex H, 21 / approximately 3 nm north of Launch Complex E, has two launch pads and a small associated missile support area. It was first seen under construction in The function of the complex and the missile system associated with it have not been established.	
25X1D	Akhtubinsk/Vladimirovka Airfield The Akhtubinsk/Vladimirovka Airfield is approximately 8 nm south of Launch Complex G, at the southern end of the SSM rangehead. It has undergone steady expansion since it was first observed in It is considered to be the airborne weapons research and development center for the USSR. The airfield has the necessary support facilities for airborne weapons research and crew training.	
	Defensive Missile Facilities	
	The defensive, or surface-to-air missile (SAM), facilities are located in the western half of the test center and consist of the following major components: precision tracking radar facility, SA-5 launch facility, the SA-1 and SA-2 research and development launch area, SA-1 (herringbone) launch site, SA-2 launch area, SA-3 launch area, SAM training sites A, B, and C, and several ancillary support installations.	
	Precision Tracking Radar Facility The precision tracking radar facility is at the western terminus of the SAM launch complex main service road. It consists of a large drive-through building with a 40-foot-diameter dish on top, a transformer yard, two parking aprons, and several small buildings	25X1[
25X1D	and structures. The facility was first observed under contraction continued, and the obser- initially identified as a probable SAM launch area. Construction continued, and the obser- initially identified in the disk in the observed under contraction of the site as a precision tracking	23/11
25X1D	radar facility. In a 95-foot-diameter environmental dome was placed over the dish. 22/	
	SA-5 Launch Facility The SA-5 launch facility is in the SAM launch complex, between the precision tracking	
	radar facility and the R & D launch area. It consists of two launch positions, two engagement radar positions, and three buildings. Construction was first observed in	25X1E
25X1D	and the facility was completed and occupied by 22/	25X1E
25X1D	R & D Launch Area The R & D launch area, which was first observed on photography in was probably used in developing the SA-1 and SA-2 SAM systems. It is situated between the SA-5 launch complex and the SA-1 launch site and consists of five launch	25X1 25X1E
	sites (designated A, C, D, E, and F), an electronic facility, and a Yo Yo guidance site. 22/ Launch Site A. Launch Site A is the original prototype SA-1 site from which the herringbone launch sites were later developed. The site consists of six launch positions and a square hardstand, probably used as a control center. Each launch position has a	
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	permanently emplaced SA-1 erector and launcher. Launch Site C. Launch Site C, which is similar to Launch Site A, has six SA-1 launch	
	positions and a probable control center. Each launch position is occupied by a permanently emplaced erector and launcher.	
	Launch Site D. This site does not appear to be designed for testing any known missile	25X1D
	system. When the site was first observed in it consisted of three circular aprons, a bunker, and two small sheds. Radar equipment was observed in open storage	
25X1D	here as early as but no significant activity was observed until when	
	ground scarring was observed preliminary to the construction of two 55-foot-diameter troposcatter antennas.	
	Launch Site E. Launch Site E, which was first observed in consists	25X1D
	of two excavated emplacements which resemble SA-2 launch positions and a revetted	25X1D
25X1D	guidance area. No construction has taken place since the site was first observed. Launch Site F. This is a slightly modified Type B-configuration SA-3 SAM site. It	23/10
	was first observed under construction in and it appeared to be complete in	25X1D
	It consists of four unrevetted launch positions, a revetted guidance area, and a probable control building.	
05V4D	Electronic Facility. This facility was formerly an SA-2 SAM site and was designated Launch Site B. By the SA-2 launch positions had completely deteriorated	
25X1D	and three radar mounds had been constructed. In a Bar Lock radar and a	25X1D
25X1D	Stone Cake radar were present on two of the radar mounds and a new type of height	20/(15
	finder radar was present in the guidance area. No changes in the site were noted until when it was observed that the Bar Lock and Stone Cake radars had been	
	removed.	
	R & D Yo Yo Guidance Site. The R & D Yo Yo radar guidance site is approximately 8,600 feet south-southwest of the R & D SA-1 launch sites. The Yo Yo guidance site con-	
	sists of a large dumbbell-shaped control building with a large paved apron, approximately	05V4D
25X1D	15 other buildings and structures, and a power substation. The research and development work on the Yo Yo radar and the SA-1 system was nearing completion by the time the	25X1D
	KY/Vlad MTC SAM Test Range was first observed on photography in	25X1
	The only activity observed at this site has been the presence of two Yo Yo radar units in varying degrees of assembly or disassembly on the paved apron in front of the	
	control building. 22/	
	SA-1 (Herringbone) Launch Site	
	The SA-1 (herringbone) launch site, which was the prototype of the Moscow SA-1 system, is located between the R & D launch area and the SA-2 launch area. Research	
	and development work on the SA-1 system was completed prior to and since that	25X1D
	time this site has functioned as a training site. No significant changes in facilities or new construction have been observed since the site was first seen in	
	The Yo Yo guidance site consists of a rectangular control building, an adjacent apron	25X1D
	which supports a Yo Yo radar, and nine other buildings and structures. This site is similar to the Yo Yo guidance sites around Moscow, except that the control building at	
	this site is not earth covered. 22/	
	SA-2 Launch Area	
	The SA-2 launch area is located between the SA-1 site and the SA-3 launch area.	
25X1D	It was first observed under construction in but it was not clearly defined as an SA-2 launch area until By the latter date the area included two	25X1D
20/(15	completed launch sites, A and B, with ancillary sites AA and BB and Launch Site E under	
25X1D	construction. Construction of Launch Site D was first observed in and of Launch Site C in Site D, which appeared similar to Site C, was abandoned	25X1D
20/(12	soon after initial construction was observed.	
25X1D	A rectangular road with three paved hardstands was constructed on the south side of the service road by No equipment has been observed on the hardstands	
	and the function of this area remains undetermined.	
25X1D	Six temporary training sites, three on each side of the foregoing SA-2 sites, were present and active until When the permanent SA-2 SAM sites became	
	operational, activity at the temporary sites diminished and by early 1963 the temporary	
	sites had disappeared.	
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Approved For Release 2004/05/12 : CIA-RDP78T04563A000300010012-8 25X1 25X1D Table 2. Data on Major Defensive Facilities at KY/Vlad MTC 25X1A Launch Site & Group Negation First Seen Geographic Coordinates Elev Lat Long (ft) Precision Tracking Radar Facility 48-49-25N 045-42-50E SA-5 Launch Facility 50 45-48-55N 045-43-50ER&D Launch Area 50 $48\text{-}48\text{-}30\mathrm{N}$ 045-44-10E SA-1 Launch Site 50 48-47-40N 045-45-25E SA-2 Launch Area 50 48-46-45N 045-47-00E 25X1 SA-3 Launch Area 48-46-50N 045-44-00E SAM Training Site A 50 48-49-45N 045-38-30E SAM Training Site B 50 48-49-20N 045-29-55ESAM Training Site C 50 48-45-20N 045-16-25E SAM Housing & Support Area 50 48-46-15N 045-43-50E SAM Warhead Area SAM Checkout & Storage Area 50 25X1 48-44-55N 045-42-50E 48-44-30N 045-44-00E 50 50 Kapustin Yar Airfield 48-40-30N 045-43-40E SAM Marshalling Area 50 48-39-35N 045-41-55E SAM Base Support Complex 50 $48\text{--}39\text{--}10\mathrm{N}$ 045-43-20E Electronic Test Facility 50 48-41-00N 045-43-15E Troposcatter & Microwave 50 48-43-55N 045-44-20E Communications Facility 50 SAM Site B30-2 25X1C 48-46-30N 045-43-50EInstrumentation Site 1 & 50 48-46-25N 045-43-50ERange Control 50 Instrumentation Site 2 48-56-30N 045-46-40E Instrumentation Site 3 48-53-00N 045-57-30E Instrumentation Site 4 50 48-49-40N 045-52-00E Instrumentation Site 5 50 48-51-10N 045-42-55E Instrumentation Site 6 50 $48\text{-}45\text{-}45\text{N} \ 045\text{-}43\text{-}55\text{E}$ Instrumentation Site 7 25X1 50 48-46-20N 045-43-55E Instrumentation Site 8 50 48-46-15N 045-48-50E Instrumentation Site 9 50 48-49-55N 045-57-55E Instrumentation Site 10 50 48-57-48N 046-15-40E Instrumentation Site 11 50 $49\text{-}08\text{-}06\mathrm{N}\ 045\text{-}42\text{-}05\mathrm{E}$ 50

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	Launch Site A. Launch Site Λ is a fan-shaped SA-2 SAM site presently consisting of four revetted and two unrevetted launch positions, a revetted guidance area, and six buildings and structures. Ancillary launch site AA consists of two unrevetted launch positions, an unrevetted guidance area, and four buildings and structures on a loop road extending from Launch Site A. Both Launch Site A and its ancillary site have been used for troop training exercises since their completion. Launch Site B. This is a fan-shaped SA-2 SAM site consisting of three revetted and	
25X1D	three unrevetted launch positions, an unrevetted guidance area, and two buildings. The	
25X1D	of good interpretability. Ancillary launch site BB consists of two unreverted launch positions, an unrevetted guidance area, and three buildings and structures on a loop road extending from Launch Site B. The ancillary site was observed under construction in and was not completed until Both Launch Site B and its ancillary site have been used for troop training exercises since their completion.	25X1D
25X1D	revetted guidance area, and five buildings and structures. The site was probably completed in Since then no structural changes have been observed and the site has been used for troop training exercises.	25X1D
25X1D	appeared to be similar to Launch Site C. Construction of the site was curtained, nowered, and it was subsequently abandoned. Launch Site E. This site consists of three unrevetted launch positions, an unrevetted guidance area, two buildings directly associated with Launch Site E, and another larger which serves as a control building for the entire SA-2 launch area. Since]
25X1D 25X1D	when the site was probably completed, it has been used for troop training exercises. SA-3 Launch Area The SA-3 launch area is at the eastern terminus of the SAM launch complex main service road. The launch area was probably used in developing the SA-3 system. It consists of four launch sites (designated A through D) and an instrumentation and control site south of the launch area which appears to be cable connected to the launch area. Since the completion of the SA-3 development program the area has functioned as a troop training facility. 22/ Launch Site A. Launch Site A is a Type D-configuration SA-3 SAM site consisting of four revetted launch positions and a revetted guidance area. It was first observed under construction in No major changes in facilities have been observed since it was completed in	f r e
25X1D	Launch Site B. This is a Type B-configuration SA-3 SAM site consisting of one reverted and three unrevetted launch positions, a revetted guidance area with a tower approximately 85 feet high, and three buildings and structures. When the site was first observed in it appeared to be basically complete and operational. Launch Site C. Launch Site C is a modified Type B-configuration SA-3 SAM site consisting of four unrevetted launch positions, a revetted guidance area, and four building and structures. It was first observed under construction in Launch Site D. This site is a Type A-configuration SA-3 SAM site consisting of four launch positions, two hold positions, and a guidance area, all unrevetted. An incongruit has been noted at this site: it has an SA-3 configuration with the launch positions designed for the offloading of the SA-3 missile; however, the only radar observed in the guidance area.	e gs 25X1D ar cy ed ce n-
25X1D 25X1D	area has been a Fan Song radar, which is associated which positions, but no launched ment chocks for the SA-3 transporter are observed at the launch positions, or missiles have been observed in the launch positions. In	
	SAM Training Sites A, B, and C SAM Training Site A is 16 nm north-northwest of Kapustin Yar and is served only be unimproved roads and trails. The site was laid out as an A-configuration SA-3 SAM site No launchers or missiles have been observed at the site, however, and the launch position are now overgrown by vegetation. A Low Blow radar was observed in the guidance are	ns
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25X1D	up to when it was replaced by a Fan Song radar. This site and SAM Training up to he SA-3 launch area.	25X1D
25X1D	Sites B and C appear to be similar to Launch Site D in the SA-3 launch area. Sites B and C appear to be similar to Launch Site D in the SA-3 launch area. SAM Training Site B is 17.5 nm northwest of Kapustin Yar and is similar in appearance to SAM Training Site A. The only large-scale photographic coverage of this site in the guidance area. The former launch positions of the	
	revealed a Fan Song radar in the guidance area. The revealed	
	site are overgrown by vegetation. SAM Training Site C is 21.5 nm west-northwest of Kapustin Yar and is similar, possibly identical, to SAM Training Sites A and B. Few details of this site are known because it has been covered only by KH-4 photography. 22/	
	SAM Housing and Support Area The entrance to the SAM housing and support area is 1.9 nm south of the SAM launch complex, on the eastern side of the SAM test range main service road. The area is fenced in two separate sections, A and B.	
	Section A, the larger of the two sections, covers approximately this section are 18 multistory barracks-type buildings and seven single-story buildings. The section also contains two motor pools with three maintenance buildings, a heating	
	complex, and numerous support structures. Section B, immediately south of Section A, covers an irregularly shaped area of approximately 16 acres. It contains five storage-type buildings and a possible administration building. The section probably functions as a storage area. 23/	
	SAM Warhead Area The SAM warhead area is on the west side of the SAM test range main service road, directly west of the SAM housing and support area. It contains four buildings, three U-shaped revetments, and several parking areas. The precise function of this area is undetermined, but it is probably used for warhead assembly and possibly for assembly of entire missiles. 23/	
,	SAM Checkout and Storage Area The SAM checkout and storage area is on the east side of the SAM test range main service road, 2.2 nm south of the SAM housing and support area. It consists of two large drive-through buildings on a circular road pattern, 11 revetted storage buildings, three unrevetted buildings, a revetted spherical tank, and four open storage revetments. 23/	
	Kapustin Yar Airfield The Kapustin Yar Airfield is just north of the SAM base support complex. The airfield has an east-west concrete runway 3,950 by It also has two serviceable sod runways, one approximately 3,155 feet long and oriented northeast-southwest and the other approximately 3,600 feet long and oriented southeast-northwest. The airfield support area consists of a motor pool, a probable heatplant, several single-family-type dwelling units, a barracks, and several support buildings.	
	SAM Marshalling Area The SAM marshalling area is near the southern end of the SAM test range. When the same of th	ı 3
25X1D 25X1D	and a support area southeast of the fenced aprons. Three additional aprons were contained and a support area southeast of the fenced aprons. Three additional aprons were contained and a support area southeast of the fenced aprons. Three additional aprons were contained and a support area southeast of the fenced aprons. Three additional aprons were contained and a support area southeast of the fenced aprons.	7
	observed and at present it consists of housing and administration buildings, a motor possible and a messhall. A paved area first observed in to the rear of Aprons and 6 is probably involved in some phase of equipment checkout.	25X1D
	checking, and issuing of SA-2 and SA-3 missile equipment to SAM units.	
	SAM Base Support Complex The SAM base support complex is approximately 7.4 nm south of the SAM launce complex. It consists of a base support and housing area, a rail-to-road transfer point	n t,
	and two storage areas. Base Support and Housing Area. The base support and housing area, covering approx mately 261 acres, contains 102 structures. It consists of a SAM support facility, a rada	i- ır
	- 9 - 25X1	25X1C
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25X1D

25X1D

launch positions, three hold positions, and a guidance area, all revetted. The site serves

At the northern end of the SAM housing and support area is the range control facility. The facility consists of a large control building, six smaller buildings and structures, and several parking aprons. It is utilized as the control point for the instrumentation sites on the test range. The facility also functions as an instrumentation site, as evidenced by the optical data collection and beacon tracking radar systems observed there.

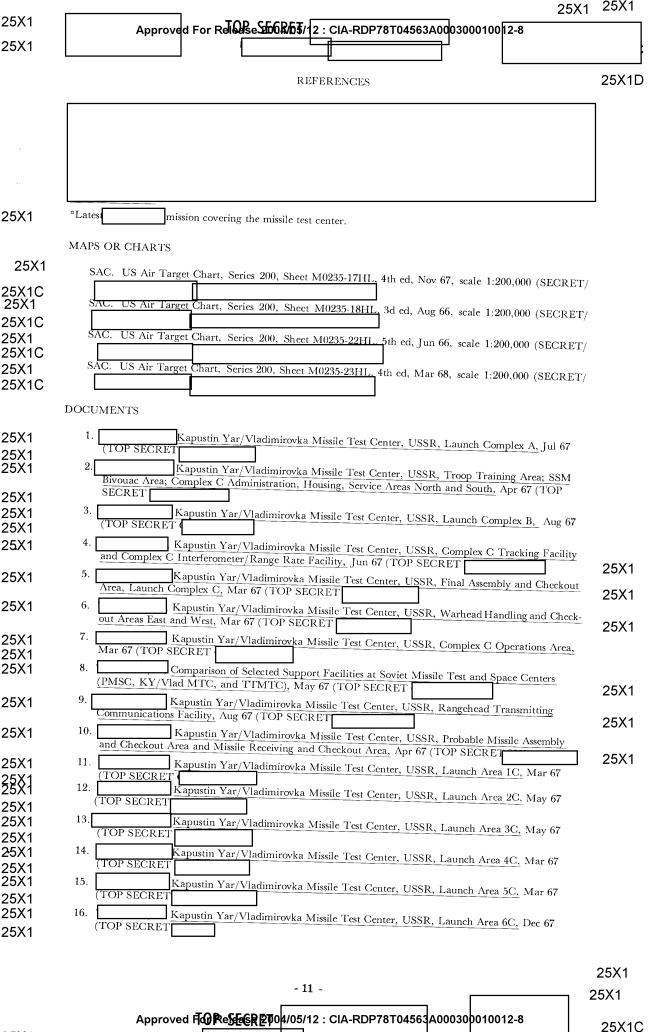
The 11 instrumentation sites at the SAM test range appear to be connected by buried cable to the range control facility. Sites 6 and 7 no longer appear to function actively as part of the range instrumentation pattern, but they appeared to be connected to the range control facility in _____and they were probably active at that time.

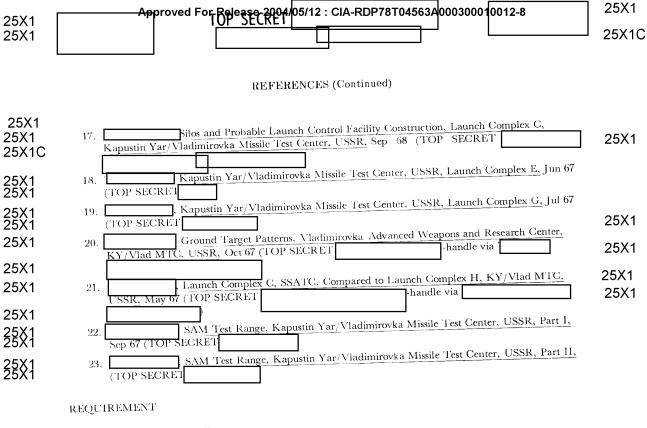
Instrumentation Sites 1, 2, 10, and 11 are occupied by Radar C's (Fire Wheel or Ship Wheel radars) which are used to track missiles fired from the SAM launch complex along their downrange flight. These radars, along with six Radar C's approximately 89 nm downrange at the Pallasovka Air Warning Radar Facility, form an elongated diamond pattern.

The range control facility and all of the active instrumentation sites, with the exception of Site 4 and possibly Site 8, have cylinder optical shelters. The range control facility and all of the instrumentation sites, with the exception of Sites 1, 10, and 11, probably have photographic tracking capability. R-400 microwave antennas are observed at Instrumentation Sites 3 and 10.

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